

**Finding Of No Significant Impact  
for  
Rehabilitation of the Upper Deckers Creek Dam Site 1  
Deckers Creek Watershed  
Preston County, West Virginia**

**Background**

An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the rehabilitation of Upper Deckers Creek Dam Site 1 was completed in 2012. Subsequent to that action, a Supplemental Watershed Plan #3 - Environmental Assessment was completed in May 2016 to specifically address a design change and to update construction costs. No other information, including environmental and economic impacts, has changed since the 2012 finding. The finding contained herein pertains to the information in Supplemental Watershed Plan #3 – Environmental Assessment.

**Introduction**

The rehabilitation of the Upper Deckers Creek Dam Site 1 is a federally assisted action authorized for planning under Public Law 83-566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, and by the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 2000 (Section 313 of Public Law 106-472). This act authorizes the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide technical and financial assistance to local project sponsors. Local sponsors of the Upper Deckers Creek Dam Site 1 rehabilitation project are the Preston County Commission, the Monongahela Conservation District, the Preston County Public Service District #1, and the West Virginia State Conservation Committee. The cooperating agency is the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District.

An environmental assessment was undertaken in conjunction with the development of the watershed plan. This assessment was conducted in consultation with local, state and Federal agencies as well as with interested organizations and individuals. Data developed during the assessment are available for public review at the following location:

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1550 Earl Core Road, Suite 200  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
304-284-7540

**Recommended Action**

The recommended action is to rehabilitate the Upper Deckers Creek Dam Site 1 to maintain the present level of flood control benefits, comply with current performance and safety standards, and provide a rural water supply under the purpose of agricultural water management.

Rehabilitation measures include construction of a roller compacted concrete auxiliary spillway over dam embankment. Spillway proportions will be sized to convey estimated flows resulting from the probable maximum precipitation. The spillway width is 420-feet at its crest, converging to 215-feet at the toe of the slope. The spillway will have a 33% stepped profile and discharge into a roller-compacted concrete stilling basin. The basin includes a notch to convey normal flows from the principal spillway pipe.

#### **Effects of Recommended Action**

The recommended action will rehabilitate Upper Deckers Creek Dam Site 1 so it meets current design criteria and performance standards and add a dedicated rural water supply.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has made a “no effect” determination the project will not affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species.

Rehabilitation of Site 1 and enlargement of the reservoir to add rural water supply will permanently inundate 2,465 linear feet of stream channels and 8.2 acres of wetlands. Sponsors are seeking environmental permits and consulting with regulatory agencies to avoid environmental impacts where possible and to mitigate for impacts that are unavoidable.

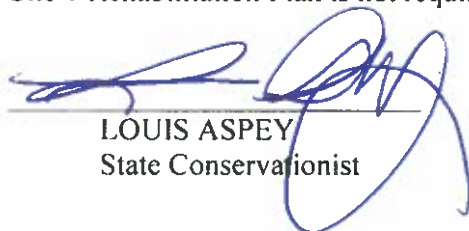
#### **Consultation – Public Participation**

The draft Watershed Plan #3 - Environmental Assessment was made available for review and comment on April 18, 2016. No comments were received.

Agency consultation and public participation to date have shown no unresolved conflicts with the implementation of the selected plan.

#### **Conclusion**

Based on the environmental assessment summarized above, I find the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. I have determined an environmental impact statement for the Upper Deckers Creek Watershed, Dam Site 1 Rehabilitation Plan is not required.

  
LOUIS ASPEY  
State Conservationist

13 JUNE 2016  
Date